

Housing the Seriously Mentally Ill

Progress Report
Virginia Housing Commission
Wednesday, September 13, 2017



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Partners for Better Communities

Budget Language

"The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) shall develop and implement strategies, that may include potential Medicaid financing, for housing individuals with serious mental illness. DHCD shall include other agencies in the development of such strategies including the Virginia Housing Development Authority, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Medical Assistance Services, and Department of Social Services. The Department shall also include stakeholders whose constituents have an interest in expanding supportive housing for people with serious mental illness, including the National Alliance on Mental Illness Virginia, the Virginia Housing Alliance and the Virginia Sheriff's Association. An annual report on such strategies and the progress on implementation shall be provided to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by the first day of each General Assembly Regular Session."

Action Steps to Date

- ▶ Through funds provided by VHDA, hired a consultant firm - Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) - to facilitate the process
- ▶ Developed the “Housing the SMI Population Strategy Group” comprised of state agencies and stakeholders identified in the budget language as well as additional ones including the Virginia Association of Regional Jails, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, the Virginia Association of CSBs to name a few
- ▶ First meeting was convened on July 11, 2017
- ▶ Next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2017
- ▶ Between meetings TAC has conducted individual interviews with many of the state agencies and stakeholders

Preliminary Observations

- ▶ Need for Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Populations within jails, adult living facilities, community services boards and homelessness system, it is projected that over 5,000 more units of PSH are needed
- ▶ Key Components
 - Housing Unit (physical structure)
 - Rental Assistance
 - Supportive Services
 - Community Capacity/Infrastructure
- ▶ Investing in PSH produces positive outcomes for:
 - The individual with SMI - stabilizing housing, improving ability to secure and maintain employment resulting in a higher quality of life
 - Criminal Justice and Hospital Systems - reduces the number of days spent in jail or in the hospital which results in cost savings for those systems and increases their capacity

Next Steps

- ▶ At the next meeting TAC will present to the Strategy Group the feedback they received during the individual interviews which will include:
 - Challenges to housing the SMI population
 - Best Practices
- ▶ Begin formulating recommended strategies

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